

MERSEBURG - Residence town

Since the earliest Middle Ages Merseburg on the river Saale, hometown of the "Merseburg Incantations" (Merseburger Zaubersprüche), was the residency of a bishopric as well as of the dukedom Saxony-Merseburg plus the center of power of the Prussian province of Saxony.

The cathedral district with the architectural unique ensemble consisting of cathedral, chapterhouse, castle, castle garden and estates assembly building stands without any comparison in the region of Central Germany. Because of its excellent interior with medieval and new-age artworks, the Cathedral of St. John and Lawrence is one of the most meaningful sights on the touristic route "Romanesque Road" (Straße der Romanik). As well it keeps the famous Merseburg Incantations, the oldest known papers in Old High German of Germanic pagan belief.

Due to the common legend of the raven the animal became the mascot of the today's district town.

Venerable curiae which house art and event gastronomy, pretty town houses as well as broad parks give the former bishopric and dukedom its distinct atmosphere.

The cultural offer is diversified and multifaceted. Highlights are the annual castle festival (Merseburger Schlossfest) with its historic pageant in the beginning of June and the organ festival (Merseburger Orgeltage) in the middle of September, the biggest sacred music festival in Saxony-Anhalt.

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c/o Tourist-Information  
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06217 Merseburg  
Telefon: 0 34 61 / 21 41 70  
www.merseburg-tourist-ev.de



1 Gotthardteich

Laid out as fish waters by bishop Thilo of Trotha at the end of the 15th century, it is surrounded by neat parks and green spaces. The rose garden at Hinterer Gotthardteich enchants its visitors.

20 St. Sixtus church ruin

First mentioned in 1045; the nave was rebuilt in the 16th century in late-Gothic style; Since the Thirty Year's War, the church has been a ruin. In 1888/89, the tower was re-converted into a water-storage tower.

19 Stone raven cage

The raven's cage in the castle forecourt is a visual reminder that keeps the famous legend of the Bishop Thilo of Trotha (1466 – 1514) and his stolen ring alive.

18 Aviation and technology museum Merseburg

Kastanienpromenade 50, ph: +49(0) 34 61 52 57 76  
Opening hours:  
15<sup>th</sup> Apr.-14<sup>th</sup> Oct. Tue-Thu 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat + Sun 10 a.m.-6 p.m.,  
15<sup>th</sup> Oct.-14<sup>th</sup> Apr. Tue-Thu 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Fri 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat + Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Exhibition: aircrafts of all purposes and from all eras, technical equipment such as vehicles or propulsion technology, scale models; collection and archiving of information on aeronautics and the history of technology.  
www.luftfahrt-technik-museum.de

17 Saale bicycle path and sculpture park

The Saale bicycle path connects several German regions. In Merseburg it directly goes right past the cathedral-castle-ensemble.

The sandstone sculptures that were produced during the 9<sup>th</sup> International Stone Sculptor Symposium 2004 in Merseburg are displayed at the foot of the cathedral and castle complex.

16 German Chemistry Museum Merseburg

Geusaer Straße 88, ph: +49(0) 34 61 46 30 70  
Opening hours:  
Mon closed  
Tue-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (Apr.-Oct.)  
Sat/Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Apr.-Oct.)

The technology park displays more than 350 historical machines, apparatuses and facilities of all sizes to illustrate the development of the chemical industry in Central Germany.

www.deutsches-chemie-museum.de

15 Südpark

The park is one of the biggest green area of the city and a popular destination for excursions in Merseburg. Including it's small zoo with animals native to Central Germany it is accessible free of charge all year round. It can be reached by bicycle, bus, car or by foot.



Photograph Credits:  
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Stadtverwaltung Merseburg



3 Willi-Sitte-Gallery

Domstraße 15  
ph: +49 (0) 3461 21 22 31

Opening hours:  
Mon closed;  
Tue-Sun 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.(March-Oct.)  
Tue-Sun 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.(Nov.-Febr.)

The Willi-Sitte-Foundation for realistic art displays the artistic creations of Willi Sitte, one of the most meaningful painter and graphic artist of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Furthermore, other pieces of arts of realistic artists are exhibited.

www.willi-sitte-galerie-merseburg.de



4 Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and Lawrence  
Domplatz 7 ph: +49(0) 34 61 21 00 45  
Opening hours:  
Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (March-Oct.)  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Nov.-Febr.)  
Sun + Religious Holidays 12 a.m.-6 p.m. / 12 a.m.-4 p.m.  
The cornerstone was laid in 1015 by Bishop Thietmar; consecrated in 1021 in the presence of Emperor Henry II; early-Romanesque hall crypt (1042).  
The cathedral, originally Ottonian-Romanesque, was profoundly extended and repeatedly altered over the centuries.  
Outstanding features include the bronze grave slab of King Rudolf of Swabia (1080), late Gothic pews, grave monuments from the 11th to 19th centuries, founder figures, Gothic bishops' graves and epitaphs.  
Further valuable pieces of the cathedrals treasury are exhibited in the southern cathedral cloister, as well as a presentation to the "Merseburg Incantations" (10<sup>th</sup> century).  
An outstanding example of baroque sepulchral culture can be found in the Merseburg crypt of princess (Fürstengruft). The restored coffins count to the most beautiful tombs of the ending 17<sup>th</sup> and beginning 18<sup>th</sup> century.

www.vereinigtedomstifter.de

11 Art foundation "ben zi bena" e.V.  
Domplatz 6  
ph: +49(0) 34 61 82 49 46  
Opening hours:  
Mon-Sun 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

The art foundation functions as a meeting place for artists and writers from the whole country. The house serves the fine arts as well as the critical view back in time and wants to – as far as possible – bring broken fragments after years of separation back together.

www.benzibena.de

14 Chapter house  
Domplatz 7, ph: +49(0) 34 61 21 00 45  
Opening hours:  
Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (March-Oct.)  
Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Nov.-Febr.)  
Sun + Religious Holidays 12 a.m.-6 p.m. / 12 a.m.-4 p.m.  
The late-Gothic chapter house hall displaying coats of arms has been restored following historic design and is one of the most impressing rooms of its kind in Germany. It houses liturgical garments from the time of Bishop Thilo of Trotha. Since 2006, the cathedral archives and library are housed on the upper floor. The terraced garden next to the chapter house offers splendid views of the Romanesque Neumarkt church and the Saale landscape of riverside meadows.

www.vereinigtedomstifter.de



5 Castle

Impressive castle complex of the German late-Renaissance; from 1605-1608, Melchior Brenner instituted an extensive conversion including essential parts of the late-Gothic castle of Bishop Thilo of Trotha. Remarkable features include coat of arms plates, portals, façade with late-Gothic and Renaissance bays.

6 Museum of cultural history Merseburg castle

Domplatz 9, ph: +49(0) 34 61 40 13 18  
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9 a.m.-6 p.m.(March-Oct.)  
Mon-Sun 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Nov.-Febr.)

The castle houses the museum of cultural history, with exhibits on pre- and early history, on the history of the medieval imperial and royal palace and of the diocese, on art and culture in the dukedom of Saxony-Merseburg and on the modern urban history.

www.saalekreis.de



10 Art centre 'Tiefer Keller'

Tiefer Keller 3, ph: +49(0) 34 61 28 90 40  
Opening hours:  
Mon + Sun closed  
Tue-Fri 9 a.m.-6 p.m.,  
Sat 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,

The building houses the "cathedral-gallery" (Domgalerie), which displays art to see, experience and buy. The entrance to the historical basement vaults, which count to the oldest parts of the town, can be found there as well. Artists arranged pieces of artwork down there to create a bond between touchable art and history.



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7 Castle garden and castle garden palace

Castle garden and castle garden palace are part of the historic castle ensemble. The castle garden was laid out in 1661 and is one of the 40 parks included in the network 'Garden Dreams' (Gartenträume), hosting the most beautiful and significant parks. The castle garden palace was built by Johann Michael Hoppenhaupt in 1730. Today, it is a popular venue.

8 Boat landing stage

Boat landing stage for sports, sightseeing and tour boats.

9 Parish church St. Maximus

Presumably founded at the end of the 10th century; rebuilt as late-Gothic hall church from 1432-1501; neo-Gothic tower 1867-72.  
www.kirche-merseburg.de

12 Parish church St. Thomas, Neumarkt

The Romanesque basilica was firstly mentioned in 1186 in a deed of Emperor Frederic I. Barbarossa. The knotted column at the late-romanesque main portal is exceptional. The interior houses contemporary sacral art. The church harbours the pilgrims on the Camino to Santiago.

www.kirche-merseburg.de

13 Old town hall

Built in 1478; extended by Nickel Hoffmann in Renaissance style (Renaissance bay window). The numerous coats of arms of bishops at the façade are remarkable; as the final one, the Merseburg coat of arms was only added in 1692.



Cultural Highlights:

March: Festival of the puppet theater  
May through September: Cathedral Music  
2nd weekend in June: Merseburg's Castle Festival  
June through August: International Concerts in the Castle Moat  
Mid-September: Merseburg's Organ Days  
December: the Merseburg Christmas at the Castle Yard Christmas and New Year's Eve Concert